

CONSOLIDATED VERSION

(As adopted Nov. 11/98, and amended Nov. 11/99, Oct. 7/00, Nov. 10/01, Nov. 8/03, Nov. 6/04, Jan. 8/05, May 14/05, Nov. 19/05 and Nov. 18/06)

Constitution of the Green Party of Manitoba

Constitution of the Party

1. An association called "The Green Party of Manitoba" is hereby constituted. The association is referred to herein as "the Party" and its members as "(the) Manitoba Greens". This Constitution prescribes the rights and responsibilities and governs the activities of the Party, its officers, its defined units and its members.

2. Object of the Party

The Object of the Party shall be to encourage the development of an ecological society as envisioned by the Common Values of the Manitoba Greens. The Party may undertake any activities, which promote the attainment of this Object.

A main objective of the Party shall be to promote Green policies and values through participation in the electoral process.

Common Values of the Manitoba Greens

3. Manitoba Greens believe:

Interdependence of society, economy and environment

(1) Society, the economy and the environment are fundamentally and inextricably interdependent. Policies addressing one can only be effective if they address all three spheres at the same time. In an ecological society, policies are sustainable, which means they are capable of being maintained indefinitely into the future.

Society

(2) Our society is sustainable only if it is democratic, egalitarian, compassionate, co-operative and peaceful, both within itself and in relation to other societies. People are secure about their personal safety and health care in a sustainable society. Social development in a sustainable society respects and values diversity within society, including physical, ethnic, sexual, cultural, political and religious.

Economy

(3) Our economy is sustainable only if it is able to maintain full employment without harming the environment. Jobs in a sustainable economy are sufficiently productive to meet society's needs and are meaningful to satisfy its members' human needs. People are not exploited or economically insecure in a sustainable economy. Small economic enterprises dominate a sustainable economy. Such an economy serves the people and not *vice versa*.

Environment

(4) Our environment is sustainable only if human activity does not harm natural ecosystems. The environment of this finite planet cannot sustain infinite consumption growth nor absorb infinite pollution. In a sustainable environment, society lives in harmony with nature, is guided by ecological insights, limits its consumption and acknowledges its finiteness.

Democracy

(5) In an ecological society, democracy is grassroots and local. People are empowered to participate directly in society's political institutions rather than only through elected

representatives. They participate in economic decisions directly as owners of local businesses and farms, as tradespeople and professionals, and as members of co-operatives, credit unions and trade unions. They participate in environmental policy directly through local community responsibility for natural resources. In all three spheres, local grassroot control ensures institutions stay truly democratic.

Manitoba Greens also support in principle the values expressed in the Global Greens Charter, the Ten Principles for a Sustainable Society, and Fritjof Capra's Ecological Principles, as appended to this Constitution, and these will be used as guidelines in developing policies and electoral platforms.

4. The following are recognized units of the Party

Individual Members
Constituency Associations
Caucuses

General Meetings
Executive Council
Standing Committees

5. Membership

Any Manitoba resident at least 14 years of age who:

- (1) subscribes to the Object of the Party and the Common Values of the Manitoba Greens;
- (2) abides by (accepts) the terms of this Constitution;
- (3) pays the annual membership fee; and
- (4) is not and does not become a member of another provincial political party may become a member of the Party.

6. Membership in good standing

In this Constitution "member" means only a member in good standing. A member is not in good standing if s/he has not paid the current annual membership fee or has not paid any other debt owed to the Party, either of which is due more than 30 days, and shall remain not in good standing so long as the debt remains unpaid.

The membership fee shall be established and may be varied under the Bylaws of the Party.

7. Termination of membership

Membership in the Party shall terminate when the member:

- (1) resigns in writing to the Executive Council;
- (2) is not in good standing for 12 consecutive months;
- (3) joins another provincial political party;
- (4) is expelled for violation of the Code of Conduct, according to procedures laid out in the Code of Conduct and Conflict Resolution Policy;
- (5) ceases to reside in Manitoba; or
- (5) becomes deceased.

8. Constituency associations

Five or more members residing in a provincial electoral constituency may form a constituency association.

Constituency Associations are to be organized according to the Constituency Association Policy passed by Council and amended as required.

9. Caucuses

A caucus shall be a self-organizing body of the party created by its members for the purpose of meeting, researching, organizing events and actions, and communicating to the membership and to the public regarding a public policy issue or area of their choosing. A caucus shall be self-governed yet accountable to the council and membership. A caucus shall operate in a manner consistent with the Green Party of Manitoba's constitution and with its values and principles.

9.1 Creation of a Caucus, Chairs, and Meetings, and Members

To create a caucus, a caucus name, a brief outline of its goals and operations, and the names and signatures of at least 8 members in good standing must be submitted in writing to council. If these conditions are met, and council deems the caucus's goals as consistent with the aims of the Party, the council shall approve of the caucus as soon as possible.

9.2 Disbanding a Caucus

A caucus may be disbanded by council if it is acting contrary to the benefit of the Party or if it has released literature, spoken to the media, or planned events without the council's approval. Council will be required to report to all members of the party if it disbands a caucus.

10. General meetings

The general meeting shall be the highest decision-making forum of the Party. Resolutions of a general meeting shall bind all units of the Party including the Executive Council, its officers and the shadow cabinet. A general meeting by resolution may:

- (1) determine any matter permitted by this Constitution, including the Party's internal and political policies;
- (2) overrule any resolution of any unit of the Party, including that of a previous general meeting and including electoral platforms which are inconsistent with the Party's political policies;
- (3) endorse candidates for election to the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Manitoba as candidates of the Party; approve Policy and Platform documents as submitted by the Policy and Platform Committee;
- (4) approve the budget presented by the Treasurer;
- (5) elect council members;
- (6) ratify, rescind or amend administrative policies and appointments made by Council;
- (7) appoint appeal committee if required to deal with membership issues;
- (8) appoint standing and special committees.

10.1 Conduct of general meetings

The Party shall hold at least one general meeting every calendar year, ordinarily in November, to be designated the Annual Convention. General meetings shall be called: by resolution of the Provincial Council; or by a petition submitted to the president at least 21 days before the proposed meeting and signed by at least 25% of the members, or 10% of the members residing within the Perimeter Highway and 10% of the members residing outside the Perimeter. The president shall send out notice of a general meeting at least 15 days before the general meeting and shall include a draft agenda. Anyone may attend a general meeting. All members in good standing are entitled to vote on any matter decided at a general meeting.

Annual Conventions will deal with Constitutional Amendments, Administrative Directives, ratification of policy and platform statements presented by the Policy and Platform Standing

Committee, confirmation of candidates selected by Constituency Associations and/or Executive Council, if applicable, and the Election of Officers, except for the Leader of the Party, who shall be elected as provided below.

Beginning with the 2008 Annual Convention, the Executive Council is to be elected for a two-year term, coinciding with the election of a leader.

A provision will be inserted in the Bylaws to require that, in time for the 2008 Annual Convention, a system of mail-in ballots shall be developed for all Council positions, and that nominations from the floor will no longer be accepted for Council positions.

General Meetings called in alternate years will focus on policy and platform development and other issues.

General meetings may be called at other times as provided above. A General Meeting may deal with all matters normally dealt with at an Annual (Biannual) Convention.

11. Party leader

The party leader shall be the main spokesperson for the Party on political matters. S/he shall not hold another office in the Green Party of Manitoba while serving as party leader.

12. Leadership contest

A leadership contest shall be held every second year, beginning in 2006. The contest shall be declared by the Chief Financial Officer of the party not later than three months before the annual convention, with the election to take place at the annual convention, unless required earlier by the resignation of the leader or by the will of the membership.

(1) the Leader and Council shall appoint a Deputy Leader; the Deputy Leader shall be on all council email/mail/phone lists and may attend all Council meetings as a non-voting member, and shall assist and work with the Leader. On the resignation of the Leader, the Deputy Leader shall be appointed to that position until another leadership contest can be held.

(2) Upon the resignation of a Leader, a leadership contest shall be called at the earliest convenient time, if possible at the next scheduled General Meeting or Convention.

(3) The members shall have the right to demand a leadership contest, by written request of 25% of the members, or 10% of the members residing within the Perimeter Highway and 10% of the members residing outside the Perimeter. Such contest shall be declared by the Chief Financial officer at the earliest convenient time, with the election to occur not later than six months from the date such request is received by Council.

At the BIENNIAL Convention, beginning in 2008, the Party shall elect the following officers, who shall, with the Leader, constitute the Executive Council:

President	Treasurer
Secretary	Membership Development Co-ordinator
Election Planning Co-ordinator	

13. Council Deputies

There shall be a designated Deputy for each council position.

Deputies shall receive all Council communications and may attend all Council meetings, but will not be counted for quorum and may not vote, EXCEPT when attending on behalf of an absent Councillor, in which case the Deputy shall for that meeting exercise the responsibilities of that position.

If a councilor resigns, or is absent from his/her position for more than three months without prior arrangement with Council, his/her deputy shall be appointed in his/her place.

Only if a councilor resigns and his/her deputy is unable or unwilling to assume that position, shall the position be deemed vacant. Vacancies on Council may be filled by appointment until the next General Meeting.

Where there is a contest for any council position, the person receiving the second highest number of votes shall be designated Deputy for that position.

Where a position is uncontested/filled by acclamation, the councilor or another member of the GPM may propose a Deputy for his/her position, subject to Council approval.

Up to three members-at-large may also be elected at the Annual Convention.

Members-at-large may not be appointed but only elected at a General Meeting/Annual Convention.

Members-at-large may serve as Deputies for other council positions, but do not themselves need to have designated deputies.

Each member of council shall have only one vote, regardless of how many positions s/he may hold.

14. Responsibilities of the Executive Council

The Executive Council shall be comprised of the officers of the Party. It is empowered to conduct all normal business of the party, subject to review at the Annual Convention. Its decisions shall be effective unless rescinded or amended by a general meeting.

The Council by resolution may:

- (1) determine any matter permitted by this Constitution, including the ratification of the Party's electoral platforms recommended by the Policy and Platform committee; and
- (2) overrule any resolution of any unit of the Party which is inconsistent with the Party's political policies, but excluding any resolution of a general meeting

15. Shadow cabinet

The Party leader may elect nominate, remove and replace members to a shadow cabinet to be spokespersons on political issues within their portfolios. The nominations, removals and replacements are subject to approval by Executive Council. Shadow Cabinet members are considered ex-officio members of the Policy and Platform Committee and shall receive all reports and minutes and be advised of all meetings.

16. Standing Committees

The following Standing Committees shall be established at the Annual Convention: Policy and Platform Committee, Fundraising Committee, Communications Committee, and Regional Advisory Committee.

All Standing Committees shall appoint a Recorder to maintain an up-to-date contact list and ensure that regular reports are submitted to the Secretary of the Executive Council. At least a summary report is to be made after each meeting, and a progress report at least twice a year.

Standing Committees are otherwise free to organize themselves as they see fit, including forming sub-committees, communicating by email, teleconferencing, and other alternate means as well as holding meetings.

All members of the Party are eligible for membership in any Standing Committee.

18. Conflict Resolution Committee

The general meeting shall elect or acclaim by consensus a Conflict Resolution Committee at the annual convention. The Conflict Resolution Committee shall be composed of two or three members. The Conflict Resolution Committee shall review breaches of the Code of Conduct and facilitate the Conflict Resolution Policy.

18.1 Chief Financial Officer

The Chief Financial Officer of the Green Party of Manitoba shall be appointed by the Leader and Council, and shall not have a vote on Council, but shall be responsible for ensuring that all legal requirements under the Elections Act and Elections Finances Act shall be fulfilled.

19. Representatives to Elections Manitoba

The Leader and Executive Council shall appoint representatives to Elections Manitoba on the Elections Act and Elections Finances Act. Any member of the Party is eligible for these appointments.

20. Privacy policy

All personal information provided by and concerning members, donors and supporters of the Party is the property of the Party. Such information shall not be released to any person outside of the Party unless required by law. Breaches of privacy may be subject to internal party discipline as well as civil and criminal penalties.

21. Amendments to Constitution

This Constitution may only be amended by a general meeting.

Proposed constitutional amendments must be circulated to the membership with the notice of a general meeting, by email where possible or by post where required.

A constitutional amendment shall require more than 75% majority vote to pass.

22. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

Bylaws may be amended by the executive council, with approval of the Regional Advisory Committee. Such amendments must be ratified by the membership at the next General Meeting, by a vote of more than 60%.

23. ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

Administrative policies may be passed or amended by the Executive Council, with approval of the Regional Advisory Committee. Such amendments must be ratified by the membership at the next General Meeting, by a majority vote.

Once passed, administrative policies will form part of the Bylaws of the Party.